

From: [Greg Markle](#)
To: [Stuehrenberg, Justin](#); [Rummel, Marsha](#)
Cc: [Beck, Drew](#); [Sobota, Timothy](#); [Rusch, Mick](#); [Ann Kovich](#); [McGuigan, Patrick](#)
Subject: RE: Milwaukee St stop in front of Operation Fresh Start RE: The bus stop is moving?
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 3:55:52 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

Could you please forward this message to the Committee members:

Hello Committee Members,

I am writing to request that the bus stop recently moved from in front of 2670 Milwaukee Street to 2714 Milwaukee Street be moved back to its previous location. I apologize for not bringing this concern forward when the opportunity to comment was originally posted, Operation Fresh Start was adhering to State Of Wisconsin Stay at Home order at that time so we missed the notification at the bus stop.

I believe it would best serve the community and our young people that we serve to have the bus stop back in front [of Operation Fresh Start \(OFS\)](#). Operation Fresh Start provides vital services to low income older youth providing them the opportunity to transition into self-sufficiency as adults. Seventy-five percent of these youth are youth of color. Thirty-percent have experienced homelessness. Forty-five percent have committed a crime misdemeanor or ordinance violation.

I don't know if it is an extremely high use stop by the community at large, but I do know that between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 and 5:00 on weekdays, that it gets significant use by our youth. At those times this stop will probably see about 10 – 15 youth. During COVID this has gone down greatly; but we will anticipate this returning to previous level as we continue to ramp up services even during COVID.

I am very concerned about potential neighborhood response to 10 -15 Fresh Start youth waiting for the bus every day at the Corry Street location. The youth very likely won't stay off lawns and might be loud at times. In addition, they will be predominately youth of color in a neighborhood that is largely white. It is potential that neighborhood concerns may be based on racial profiling or youth of color.

I think the neighborhood would likely prefer to keep a stop in front of our building. This isn't about making it easy for our youth, this is about maintaining good neighbor relationships and stopping potential concerns before they happen. This is about that Alder calling you to see what can be done a year from now; when they get a few calls.

In addition, Operation Fresh Start provides a Little Library at the 2670 Milwaukee Street location and was planning to install a bench prior to this move happening. The bus stop was moved exactly 134 steps to a compact City apron location without any of these attributes.

The compromise: In order to get the bus stop back, can we pour the pad ourselves? We are licensed and certified to do cement pours in terraces and aprons in the City of Madison. We were going to pour a pad for the bench anyways, this just means a bit bigger pad. It would be a good project for our youth. And it could save the City that cost.

Thank you for your consideration and your dedication to our community.

Sincerely,

Gregory Markle
Executive Director
Operation Fresh Start

From: Stuehrenberg, Justin [mailto:JStuehrenberg@cityofmadison.com]
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 3:19 PM
To: Greg Markle <GMarkle@operationfreshstart.org>; Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Beck, Drew <RBeck@cityofmadison.com>; Sobota, Timothy <TSobota@cityofmadison.com>; Rusch, Mick <MRusch@cityofmadison.com>; Ann Kovich <annelizabethkovich@gmail.com>; McGuigan, Patrick <PMcGuigan@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Milwaukee St stop in front of Operation Fresh Start RE: The bus stop is moving?

Mr. Markle,

I wanted to follow up on this item and let you know that there will be a meeting of the Transportation Commission on October 14th, where commission members will take comment and vote to ratify previous bus stop changes or direct them to be restored to the previous configuration. I've included your feedback in the action item, but you are also welcome to attend and voice your concern. If you'd like help with how to register to speak, I've copied Patrick here, who can direct you where to go.

Thank you,
Justin

From: Stuehrenberg, Justin
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 11:03 AM
To: Greg Markle; Rummel, Marsha
Cc: Beck, Drew; Sobota, Timothy

Subject: Re: Milwaukee St stop in front of Operation Fresh Start RE: The bus stop is moving?

Mr. Markle,

The changes have already been initiated for Sundays service change and it's too late to make changes at this point. However, as always, we will monitor the situation and make adjustments as needed to respond to issues as they come up. Please let us know once you start to have activity return to normal so we can monitor the stops.

Thanks,
Justin

From: Greg Markle <GMarkle@operationfreshstart.org>

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 10:35 AM

To: Stuehrenberg, Justin; Rummel, Marsha

Cc: Beck, Drew; Sobota, Timothy

Subject: RE: Milwaukee St stop in front of Operation Fresh Start RE: The bus stop is moving?

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Hello Mr. Stuehrenberg,

Thank you for the quick reply. I am wondering if there is a way to have Metro reconsider this decision? And perhaps there could be a compromise.

I believe it would best serve the community and our young people that we serve to have the bus stop back in front of OFS. I don't know if it is an extremely high use stop but I do know that between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 and 5:00 on weekdays, that it gets significant use by our youth. At those times this stop will probably see about 10 – 15 youth. During COVID this has gone greatly but we will anticipate this returning to previous level as we are ramping up services now. I realize that additional stops slows the bussed down, but these stops will generally happen only during these times.

I am very concerned about potential neighborhood response to 10 -15 youth waiting for the bus every day at the Corry Street location. I think the neighborhood would likely prefer to keep a stop in front of our building.

The compromise: In order to get the bus stop back, can we pour the pad ourselves? We are licensed and certified to do cement pours in terraces and aprons in the City of Madison. We were going to pour a pad for the bench anyways, this just means a bit bigger pad. It would be a good project for our youth. And it could save the City that cost. (If you could reimburse for the actual cement that is delivered that would be great, but we will do it either way.)

Could this work?

Thanks for considering alternative options.

Sincerely,

Greg

Gregory Markle
Executive Director
Operation Fresh Start
Phone: 608.244.4721
Cell: 608.609.7118
Fax: What? Do you think this is 1987?

Operation Fresh Start is grateful for the support of community donors. Thank you!

Our mission is to provide disconnected youth a path to self-sufficiency.

Operation Fresh Start is a YouthBuild and Corps Network member organization.
Operation Fresh Start is an American Job Center Partner Organization
Operation Fresh Start is supported by the local United Way of Dane County, City of Madison
Community Development Division and Dane County Human Services.

The national youth unemployment rate is above 20% for the first time since the Great Depression.
Time to get to work.

From: Stuehrenberg, Justin [<mailto:JStuehrenberg@cityofmadison.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 8:19 AM

To: Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>; Greg Markle
<GMarkle@operationfreshstart.org>

Cc: Beck, Drew <RBeck@cityofmadison.com>; Sobota, Timothy <TSobota@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Re: Milwaukee St stop in front of Operation Fresh Start RE: The bus stop is moving?

Alder Rummel and Mr. Markle,

Thank you for reaching out to clarify this issue. Because this stop is being removed, you would no longer need to install a bench there. Your redevelopment plans were approved back in 2016 and since that time, the City of Madison has begun to implement a series of changes to

bus stops to make them compliant with both the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the bus stop spacing guidelines adopted by the Madison Council in March 2013.

In order to be compliant with ADA, a concrete pad must be installed that is large enough for a person in a wheelchair to align themselves with the ramp on the bus. As you can imagine, the cost of these pads at thousands of bus stops across the city would be very high. In addition, some bus stops are very close together, which makes the bus service very slow to stop at multiple stops within an easy walk of each other. To make the service more efficient and also minimize the number of locations that we need to invest in bus pads, some stops are being removed. The council action from March 2013 states that stops should be no closer than 660 ft from one another, ideally between 990 ft and 1320 ft.

The stop at Milwaukee and Farwell is only 400 ft from the stop at Corry and only 650 ft from the stop at East Washington, so it was targeted for removal. Bus stop removals are typically pushed out with service changes, and the August service changes are prompting the current change.

I'm sorry for any confusion, and we will work with the city planning department to ensure that your bench requirement is removed.

Thanks,
Justin

From: Rummel, Marsha
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:13 PM
To: Greg Markle; Stuehrenberg, Justin
Subject: Milwaukee St stop in front of Operation Fresh Start RE: The bus stop is moving?

Thanks for letting me know, this is the first I heard about it. I am copying Justin Stuehrenberg, Metro's new GM to help get more info.

I'm doing ok, hope all is well in your world too.

Marsha Rummel
District 6 Alder
City of Madison

You can fill out the census from home. Everyone living in your household should be counted. Census data determines how more than \$675 billion in federal funds are distributed to communities across the country for affordable housing, childcare, healthcare, education, transportation, and more. That's over \$2,000 per person for Madison and Dane County every year. Please remind friends and family to be counted. By law your answers are confidential. Respond online at my2020census.gov, by [phone](#), or by [mail](#)—without having to meet a census taker.

From: [Greg Markle](#)

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:04 PM

To: [Rummel, Marsha](#)

Subject: The bus stop is moving?

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi Marsha,

How are you?

We just found out, because they were taking the sign down, that they are moving the bus stop that is/was located in front of our building.

This leaves me with a question and a request:

1. As part of our development plan as we were building this building out, Metro had included in the plan that we were to install a bench at the bus stop. We are planning to install the bench in the next month. Do we still need to install the bench? If not, how do we get official notification that we don't have to install the bench?
2. We think it is good to have the bus stop right in front of our building. Almost all of our participants come to OFS via bus. With the bus stop in front of our building, we are able to have a better view of activities at the bus stop. This improves overall engagement in the community. They are moving the bus stop to the intersection with Corry Street. It isn't all that far but we can't see it from our building. It is all residences with front yards there. I think the community might prefer the bus stop in front of our building. Generally 12 to 20 youth catch the bus or get off at this bus stop each day.

Did I miss something? What is the process for moving a bus stop? I don't recall seeing anything about this. Do they notify the neighbors? Is there any hope of moving the bus stop back in front of our building?

Thanks for any help you can provide. This isn't the biggest issue in the world; but it might be best for everyone if the bus stop stays where it was.

Thanks,

Greg

Gregory Markle

Executive Director

Operation Fresh Start

Cell: 608.609.7118 – Operation Fresh Start staff are currently working remotely so this is the best phone number to use right now.

Operation Fresh Start is an community based organization with YouthBuild and Corps Network AmeriCorps partnerships and supported by the United Way of Dane County and your vital contributions.